

# NIFC News

National Interagency Fire Center  
3833 S. Development Ave.  
Boise, ID 83705

<http://www.nifc.gov>



August 18, 2006

Contact: Randy Eardley – 208-387-5895  
or Rose Davis – 208-382-5347

## CANADA ASSISTS U.S. FIREFIGHTING EFFORTS

**Boise, Idaho** – Firefighters and managers from Canada will arrive in Boise this weekend to help battle western wildland fires. Six Type 1 crews and 39 mid-level managers from British Columbia and Saskatchewan will be at the National Interagency Fire Center on Saturday for a full day of orientation before being assigned to fires in the west. Six Canadian smokejumpers are already in the United States working out of the Missoula Smokejumper Base in Montana.

“We have an agreement in place with Canada that allows us to easily exchange resources during tough seasons like this,” said Tom Boatner, Chairperson to the National Multi-Agency Coordinating (NMAC) Group at NIFC. “This long-standing relationship allows us to tap additional trained professional and experienced firefighters and managers when our resources are already heavily committed to ongoing fires.”

Canada is also experiencing a challenging season and has reported more than 4.3 million acres burned so far this year. Conditions are moderating, however, allowing Canadian fire officials to send resources to the U.S.

The Canadian firefighting crews are equivalent to the U.S. Type 1 crews which are some of the most highly trained, professional and experienced crews in the wildland firefighting system.

##